(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government propose to direct SAIL to transfer Company's shares to the general public of the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (f) The Central Government shares in SAIL, held in the name of the President of India, are being offered for sale to employees of SAIL at a premium of Rs. 16 per share. All regular employees of the Company, on the rolls of the Company as on 1-4-92 and 17-3-1994, are eligible to avail of the offer, subject to a maximum of 200 shares per employee. Government have also stipulated that total sale of shares to employees should not exceed 5% of paid up equity share capital of the Company as on 1-4-92. The employees will also not be permitted to sell or transfer shares for a period of three years from the date of allotment of shares to them.

Government have already disinvested, to dated 10.58% of the paid up capital of SAIL to financial institutions, Commercial Banks etc.

**Contract Labour System in V.S.P.**

4162. SHRI MATANG SINH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Contract Labour System is still going on in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant;

(b) if so, what are the details of works in respect of which Contract Labour System is still continuing;

(c) how much expenditure has been incurred on the execution of those works during the last three years and how much expenditure would have been incurred had those job been executed through their regular workers;

(d) whether any direction is proposed to be issued to abolish the Contract Labour System there and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when a decision is likely to be taken to abolish this system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, Visakhapatnam Steel Plant does not engage labour through labour supply contracts. However some job contracts are awarded by the Company which include certain repair and maintenance jobs.

(c) During the last three years following expenditure was incurred by Visakhapatnam Steel Plant on job contracts awarded for the plant and the non-works areas:—

(Rs. in crores)

| PLANT | | NON-WORKS |
|---|---|---|
| 1991-92 . . . | 7.04 | 0.93 |
| 1992-93 . . . | 19.07 | 1.21 |
| 1993-94 . . . | 23.40 | 1.74 |

The executuion of these contracts involved expertise in certain areas of maintenance, repairs, supply of materials and use of certain equipments besides deployment of manpower. The work carried out by these contracting agencies are intermittent and not perennial in nature. It would not, therefore, be possible to make the realistic estimate of expenditure if the jobs are carried out by VSP departmentally. However, based on the total labour deployed on an average by these contracting agencies in these jobs, which roughly works out to 6,000 and taking into account the average expenditure of Rs. 70,000 incurred per head on regular employees of the Company, the annual expenditure would work out to Rs. 42 crores excluding the cost of material, use of equipments etc.

(d) and (e) Any action in relation to abolition of contract labour is required to be taken up by the appropriate Government under the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970. State Government is an appropriate Government for the iron and steel industry.

**Accidents in Steel Melting Shop in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant**

4163. SHRI MATANG SINH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the number of accidents in Steel Melting Shop zone has been causing lot of loss of property and production in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant now-a-days and if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) the number of such accidents which took place during each of the last three years along with the details of loss of property, lives etc. and production of steel suffered during that period;

(c) whether compensation has since been paid to each worker/officer and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the magisterial enquiry which was ordered in October, 1993 has since been completed and any report submitted and if so, the details thereof and what action has been taken thereof; and

(e) whether the report has not been submitted uptil now, if so, what are the reasons therefor and what efforts have been made for expenditure completion thereof?